

CUTTING THE TRADE DEFICIT

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing entitled "Cutting Our Trade Deficit: Can the U.S. Muster Its Diverse Trade Promotion Operations to Make an Impact?" Testimony was heard from Representative Mica; Franklin Lavin, Under Secretary, International Trade, Department of Commerce; Loren Yager, Director, International Affairs and Trade, GAO; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—U.S. RAIL CAPACITY CRUNCH

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Railroads held an oversight hearing on the U.S. Rail Capacity Crunch. Testimony was heard from Joseph Boardman, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation; Frank Busalacchi, Secretary, Department of Transportation, State of Wisconsin; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—CORPORATE COMMITMENT TO HIRING VETERANS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Held an oversight hearing on Corporate Commitment to Hiring Veterans. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2006

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, 9:30 a.m., SD-138.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to resume hearings to examine the progress of the Capitol Visitor Center construction, 10:30 a.m., SD-124.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold a closed briefing on operations and intelligence, 10 a.m., SR-222.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention and Prediction, to hold hearings to examine drought issues, 10 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Narcotics Affairs, to hold hearings to examine the progress of implementing the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Norman Randy Smith, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Brett M. Kavanaugh, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Michael Ryan Barrett, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, Brian M. Cogan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of

New York, Thomas M. Golden, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Timothy Anthony Junker, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa, and Patrick Carroll Smith, Sr., of Maryland, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina, S. 2557, to improve competition in the oil and gas industry, to strengthen antitrust enforcement with regard to industry mergers, S. 2453, to establish procedures for the review of electronic surveillance programs, S. 2455, to provide in statute for the conduct of electronic surveillance of suspected terrorists for the purposes of protecting the American people, the Nation, and its interests from terrorist attack while ensuring that the civil liberties of United States citizens are safeguarded, S. 2468, to provide standing for civil actions for declaratory and injunctive relief to persons who refrain from electronic communications through fear of being subject to warrantless electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence purposes, S. 2292, to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges, S. 489, to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, to limit the duration of Federal consent decrees to which State and local governments are a party, and S.J. Res. 1, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage, 9:30 a.m., SD-226.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine renewing the temporary provisions of the Voting Rights Act, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: business meeting to consider the nomination of Daniel L. Cooper, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to be followed by a hearing on issues relating to VA research, 10 a.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, hearing to review the Futures Market and Gasoline Prices, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Science, the Departments of State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies, on SEC, 10 a.m., H-309 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Projection Forces, to mark up H.R. 5122, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, 11 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Readiness, to mark up H.R. 5122, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, to mark up H.R. 5122, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled "Examining the Use of Non-Consensus Standards in Workplace Health and Safety," 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, hearing on Pipeline Safety: A Progress Report Since the Enactment of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act: How to Improve the Program to Ensure Access to Care,” 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade and Technology, hearing entitled “CFIUS and the Role of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States,” 11 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, hearing entitled “Financial Friendly Fire: A Review of Persistent Military Pay Problems,” 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism, executive, briefing on the GAO report Information Sharing: The Federal Government Needs to Establish Policies and Processes for Sharing Terrorism-Related and Sensitive but Unclassified Information (GAO-06-385). 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on International Relations, hearing on United Nations Reform: Improving Internal Oversight Within the UN, 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, joint hearing on North Korea: Human Rights Update and International Abduction Issues, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, oversight hearing on the Constitution and Line Item Veto, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, oversight hearing on Patent Harmonization, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, oversight hearing on The Report by the Administration’s Task Force on Puerto Rico’s Status, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, oversight hearing on the GAO Report on Promoting Woody Bio-

mass for Energy and Other Uses, 1 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on National Parks, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 1796, Mississippi River Trail Study Act; H.R. 3085, to amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, and components, and campgrounds associated with that trail; and H.R. 4612 Wright Brothers-Dunbar National Historic Park Designation Act, 2:30 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, hearing on H.R. 5143, H-Prize Act of 2006, 9:30 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Workforce Empowerment and Government Programs, hearing entitled “Healthcare and Small Business: Proposals That Will Help Lower Costs and Cover the Uninsured,” 10:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, oversight hearing on Implementation of the Oil Pollution Act, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on the following: H.R. 4791, Disabled Veterans Adaptive Housing Improvement Act; the Veterans Employment State Grant Improvement Act of 2006; the GI Bill Flexibility Act of 2006; the Veterans and Credentialing Act of 2006; and a proposal to amend to H.R. 3082, Veterans-Owned Small Business Promotion Act of 2005, 1:30 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, briefing on Global Updates/Hotspots, 9 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine the current economic outlook, 10 a.m., SH-216.